Welcoming SEAMOLEC’s New Director

the SEAMEO Council President has assigned Dr. Alpha Amirrachman as the new Centre Director.

SEAMOLEC and Partners

SEAMOLEC is very keen on establishing a stronger networking system through partnerships and synergizing with other related parties.

SEAMOLEC 2019 Annual Meeting

Every year SEAMOLEC hosts Annual Meeting for its staff and management.
ASSALAMUALAIKUM WR. WB.,

I am delighted to present to you the first edition of 2019 SEAMOLEC Info, one of the three newsletters published by the Centre every year. This publication provides the up-to-date information about the Centre’s programmes and issues related to Open and Distance Learning (ODL) to its colleagues and networks.

In this edition we have prepared a collection of articles for the first three months of the year 2019 ranging from internal activities with the staffs Centre, and external services to its partners and networks. Starting from the turnover directorship from Dr. Abi Sujak, the previous SEAMOLEC Director, to me in early January 2019, various activities have been conducted and some events have been attended on behalf of the Centre.

Within January, SEAMOLEC was involved in several international programmes. The Centre was invited to introduce SIERRA at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Workshop in Bali, has actively involved in the SEAMEO Centres Policy Research Network (SEAMEO CPRN) Conference held in Bangkok, and reported the overall results of INDOPED Project at the final meeting hosted by University of Seville, Spain. You may read the whole articles in this edition.

In February SEAMOLEC celebrated its 22nd Anniversary; the Centre hosted the celebration back to back with the Inter-Centre Collaboration Meeting (ICCM) inviting all SEAMEO Centres in Indonesia, previous Directors and all staffs. Within the same month SEAMOLEC also had the opportunity to share its flagship programmes at the SEAMEO-University of Tsukuba Symposium VII in Tokyo and in Rembuk Nasional Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan (RNPK) or National Consultation Forum for Education and Culture 2019 in Tangerang. SEAMOLEC conducted Training of Trainer (ToT) for its staff in order to provide new knowledge, skills, and practical experience regarding the latest training topics, which later will be published and opened for public to participate.

To update with the newest technology, SEAMOLEC attended Mobile Learning Week 2019 under the theme ‘Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable development’ in March. It was an event hosted by UNESCO Headquarter in Paris. Still in March, the Centre hosted an opening ceremony of the new project called Southeast Asia Sales Competition (SEASAC). This 3-year project is funded by the European Commission’s Erasmus+ programme and is expected to strengthen South-East Asian Students’ capability to provide highly skilled business-to-business sales professionals for the emerging international markets.

At the same time, to establish stronger networks SEAMOLEC opens itself for collaboration with its partners by visiting various institutions, such as 3 Directorate Generals of Ministry of Education and Culture (MOEC) of Indonesia, namely, Directorate General of Teacher and Education Personnel, Directorate General of Basic and Secondary Education, and Directorate General of Culture, ICT centre for MOEC (PUSTEKKOM), and Universitas Terbuka. The Centre also welcomes all visitors to the office to see and learn about the programmes.

We wish you enjoy reading all articles in this edition. Our readers can also enjoy reading it in online format through SEAMOLEC website http://seamolec.org/info. Should you wish to subscribe to SEAMOLEC four-monthly newsletter, please send email to prmteam@seamolec.org. Happy reading!
Welcoming SEAMOLEC’s New Director

IT SEEMS LIKE IT WAS JUST YESTERDAY WHEN DR. ABI SUJAK, M.SC GOT ASSIGNED AS THE DIRECTOR OF SEAMEO SEAMOLEC.

On December 31, 2018 he had completed his 3 years Directorship term at the Centre. As his successor, the SEAMEO Council President has assigned Dr. Alpha Amirrachman as the new Centre Director active on January 1, 2019 for the next 3 years term. Today, on January 7, 2019, SEAMOLEC hosted a handover position ceremony at its office. All SEAMOLEC’s staffs gathered for the occasion.

The casual ceremony began with having breakfast together and continued by SEAMOLEC office tour. The new Director was introduced with all functioned rooms at the Centre from first floor to the third. The handover ceremony took place at SEAMOLEC video conference room, led by Mr. Yoni Utomo, SEAMOLEC Deputy Director for Administration. Dr. Abi opened his speech by welcoming and congratulating Dr Alpha for the new post at SEAMOLEC, and explaining in brief about the programmes conducted by SEAMOLEC in the past 3 years. He then introduced all managers and staffs.

After lunch break the event continued by a smaller group meeting where all managers from 7 divisions got the opportunity to present about their 2018 programme reflection and the plan for 2019. All staffs thanked Dr. Abi for the kind and supportive leadership over these past years, and wish Dr. Alpha to bring more success with wonderful new adventures in the future.

Welcome to the big family of SEAMOLEC, Sir!

Who is Who?

It is our pleasure of SEAMOLEC INFO this issue to announce SEAMOLEC’s new Director, Dr. Alpha Amirrachman.

Appointed by Minister of Education and Culture of Republic of Indonesia, Dr. Alpha will be serving his leadership at SEAMOLEC starting from January 2019. His extensive background and positions not to mention his roles in community engagement and professional organization in area of education has been widely acknowledged. As a PhD graduate in Social Sciences from the Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research (AISSR), Universiteit van Amsterdam, the Netherlands, along with his diverse experiences in academic, media and community engagement has given him an impressive network throughout Indonesia extended to Southeast Asia and beyond as well.

SEAMOLEC under his supervision has started with active roles in enhancing relationship and partnership among governmental and non-governmental institutions to promote and express centre’s mission and expertise in open and distance learning through various supportive programmes to meet ultimate goals of reaching the unreachable and enabling digital literacy of human resource in Southeast Asia towards 4.0 era.

SEAMOLEC staffs are enthusiastic and excited to enter another strong years of achievement with his leadership and happy of having him as the team leader!

Together with other panelists from PUSTEKKOM, Ministry of Education of Malaysia, and Mejakita.com, SEAMOLEC Director presented in the session 2 about Sharing of Best Practice and Efforts Done by APEC Members on Leveraging Digital Technology to Improve Education Quality.

In this session, SEAMOLEC Director, Dr. Alpha Amirrachman shared the institution’s experience with SIERRA (SEAMOLEC Educational Resources for Remote Areas) device which is developed by the Centre. SIERRA is a product that allows students to learn by accessing learning materials in form of video, audio, and other contents compiled in an offline site, by using their smartphones or personal computer (PC) without using internet connection and with less electricity as it is powered by a power bank, which can be charged with a solar cell.

Dr. Alpha said that SEAMOLEC is continuing to develop this device into a more sophisticated but much more efficient and effective one with much more enriching content materials. He invited interested parties to collaborate with SEAMOLEC to work hand-in-hand to make sure that students in remote areas are able to access to decent education.

He also added that the content materials should be values driven, meaning that we should be able to make students not only smart, intelligent and skillful, but also responsible and tolerant so later they can contribute to the betterment of society.

The workshop is participated by several distinguished panelists and participants from APEC economies.

SEAMOLEC Deputy Director of Programme, Mrs. Prakaikan Schneltz, received a token of appreciation from the Minister of Tourism, Dr Ir Arief Yahya, M Sc on February 28, 2019. It was during the event of National Coordination Meeting of the Ministry of Tourism of Indonesia with the theme of Wonderful Indonesia Digital Tourism (WIDT) 4.0 ‘Transforming Tourism HR to Win The Global Competition in The Industry 4.0 Era’
Contributing to the Regional Research Agenda, SEAMOLEC Participated in SEAMEO CPRN

SEAMEO SECRETARIAT ORGANISED THE SEAMEO CENTRES POLICY RESEARCH NETWORK (SEAMEO CPRN) CONFERENCE ON JANUARY 30-31, 2019 AT FOUR WINGS HOTEL, BANGKOK, THAILAND.

The objectives of this conference are to strengthen the SEAMEO Centres Policy Research Network initiatives and the regional and international agenda, to provide capacity building for SEAMEO Centres on key research areas, and to update research priorities and opportunities of SEAMEO Centres and Units on CPRN Action Plan 2019-2023. All SEAMEO Centres were invited to join this event, and SEAMOLEC took part in it through the participation of SEAMOLEC Director Dr. Alpha Amirrachman and SEAMOLEC Marketing and Publication Division Manager Ms. Aline Almandha.

The SEAMEO CPRN was initially introduced as a component of the SEAMEO College, a project launched in 2013. The Network is established to enhance relevance and sharpen responsiveness of SEAMEO Centres and the Secretariat to the needs of education leaders for policy research to address regional human resource development issues in Southeast Asia.

This was the third event of SEAMEO CPRN for the sustainability of its network. The first workshop was conducted in 2016 by the Southeast Asian Regional Centre for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) in Los Banos, Philippines, and the second one was SEAMEO CPRN task force meeting held in 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand.

On the first day, series of resource persons delivered the previews of international and regional research agenda. Speakers were coming from Korean Educational Development Institute (KEDI), UNESCO Asia Pacific Regional Office, UNESCO Asia Pacific Regional Office, and ASEAN University Network. Participants found their sharing very useful and responded actively. The session became a regional think tank to leverage the skills and knowledge about research within the region.

The sessions followed by updates of the CPRN task force meeting in 2017, which covers 4 areas of previous discussions: Inter-Centre Collaboration, Research Agenda, Capacity Building Programmes, and Knowledge Exchange and Sharing Impact. The four areas were represented by SEAMEO RECFON (Regional Center for Food and Nutrition), SEAMEO INNOTECH (Regional Centre for Educational Innovation and Technology), SEAMEO TROPMED Network (Regional Cooperation Network for Education, Training and Research in Tropical Medicine and Public Health), SEAQIM (SEAMEO Regional Centre for QITEP in Mathematics) and SEAQIS (SEAMEO Regional Centre for QITEP in Science).

Day one was closed with a session on “Communicating Research and Development through Policy Briefs” by Prof Dr Ma Sandra B Tempongko, Deputy Coordinator, SEAMEO TROPMED Network, and “Making More Sense of our Research Results for our Stakeholders” by Dr Jesus C Fernandez, Deputy Director for Programme, SEAMEO RECFON. Those two sessions were also reaping a lot of responses and queries from participants.

The next day saw SEAMEO Secretariat presenting a revisit to CPRN Action Agenda 2018-2020. SEAMEO Secretariat reviewed that the Inter-Centre Collaboration activities should be initiated by the Secretariat, meaning the Centres should manage the rest of the areas. All participants were then divided into 3 groups discussing ideas and possible collaboration to explore the remaining 3 areas. SEAMOLEC joined groups of Research Agenda and Knowledge Exchange and Sharing Impact.
Reflection from INDOPED Final Meeting in Spain

All good things must come to an end someday, it was a touching moment during the Modernizing Indonesian Higher Education with Tested European Pedagogical Practices (INDOPED) final meeting hosted by University of Seville, Spain on January 29 – 30, 2019. INDOPED was a three-year project (2016-2018) funded by the European Union (EU) and supported by Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education (MoRTHE) Republic of Indonesia to modernize teaching and learning in Indonesian Universities by adapting European pedagogical practices.

Five European universities, namely: Turku University of Applied Sciences (TUAS) - Finland, Business Academy Aarhus – Denmark, Inholland University of Applied Sciences – Netherland, Gdansk University – Poland and Seville University – Spain, successfully shared their best innovation pedagogical methods to five Indonesian universities: Bina Nusantara University, State Islamic University Syarif Hidayatullah, Yogyakarta State University, Widya Mandala Catholic University and Syiah Kuala University.

Lesson learned and best practices from the implementation pilots were successfully disseminated by SEAMEO Regional Open Learning Centre (SEAMOLEC) through webinars, workshop, seminar and various digital channels (website, newsletters, social medias) to meet wider audiences: not only university teachers but also primary and secondary education teachers from Indonesia and Southeast Asia.

During those two days meeting, project leaders and staff members of INDOPED consortium shared their final remarks and worked collaboratively to complete final report that will be delivered to EU as the funding agency. Former SEAMOLEC Director now expert to the ICT Centre for Education of Minister of Education and Culture (MoEC) of the Republic of Indonesia, Dr. Abi Sujak, and SEAMOLEC Research and Development Manager, Ms. Cahya K. Ratih shared INDOPED promotional videos that have been developed by SEAMOLEC. Five INDOPED innovative pedagogical method videos are currently available on INDOPED social media account (Facebook, YouTube) namely: Project Hatchery, Innovation Camp, Project Market Research, Storytelling and Gamification. The impact and benefit of INDOPED project, which were received by various parties were also captured and played in the INDOPED main video. Report of external evaluation was also informed in this meeting and the result was encouraging.

As stated in the evaluation report, this three-year project successfully brought student-centered innovation-oriented pedagogical methods to Indonesia. Beyond this finding, INDOPED was also successful in inviting teachers and education administrators to reflect upon their way of teaching and the goal they try to achieve. During this meeting, 6 Indonesian project leaders agreed to continue this collaboration and promote sustainable development of innovation competencies of teachers and students.

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Entering the new year of 2019, The Minister of Education and Culture (MoEC) of Indonesia held an event called Rembuk Nasional Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan or National Consultation Forum for Education and Culture (RNPK) 2019. This big event was intended to build synergy among all stakeholders in education and culture sector from central government, local government, and wider public.

This annual event was conducted for 4 days (February 11-14, 2019) at Pusdiklat Kemdikbud, Sawangan, Depok. The theme for RNPK 2019 was “Strengthening Education, Promoting Culture,” and it was officially opened by H.E. Mr. Joko Widodo, the President of Republic of Indonesia. In his remarks, the President mentioned that improving human resources on a large scale through vocational education and vocational training is one of Indonesian Government concerns. Strengthening infrastructure and upgrading human resources are the keys to compete with other nations.

Mr. President also suggested that MoEC focus on upgrading skills of teachers. Indonesia should have more skilled and productive teachers prepared more than the normative ones. They should be able to introduce revolution industry 4.0 to the students, especially with regard to artificial intelligence, internet of things, advance robotic and crypto currency virtual reality.

SEAMEO Regional Open Learning Centre (SEAMOLEC) participated by having joint-booth with SEAMEO Recfon. The Centre presented about its Online Training, which is in line with the suggestions of the President of Indonesia to improve the ICT skills of teachers and to develop form the periphery. Teachers who visited SEAMOLEC’s booth had the chance to register themselves to participate in the online training and received free merchandises. Other than online training, the Centre also exhibited SEAMOLEC Educational Resources for Remote Areas (SIERRA) and Augmented Reality (AR) device, as well as the ODL Programme for West Java.

SEAMOLEC also assisted SEAMEO Secretariat (SEAMES) in award winning presentation to the 3rd batch of winners of Southeast Asia Creative Camp (SEA CC). SEA CC is a routine competition programme in various fields held by SEAMES for teachers and students within SEAMEO member countries and beyond. There were 12 groups of winners from 12 competitions held by SEAMES being awarded by the Minister of Education and Culture of Indonesia on the stage of RNPK 2019. Winners from Vietnam and Thailand also attended this ceremony.

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SEAMOLEC PARTICIPATED IN THE EXHIBITION OF VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS’ CREATIVE PRODUCTS

Directorate of Technical and Vocational Education (DTVE) of Ministry of Education and Culture (MoEC) held an exhibition on creative products of vocational high school students (Pameran Produk Kreatif Hasil Pembelajaran Siswa SMK) back to back with a one-day seminar with the theme; “Vocational High School in Facing the Industrial Revolution 4.0 Era” at Building A of MoEC, Jakarta on March 21, 2019. There were 72 vocational high schools and its partners participating in the exhibition to show the results of students in effort to embrace the era of industry 4.0, ranging from the field of Internet of Things (IoT), Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR), 3D Printing, Robotics, Tourism Promotion, etc. His Excellency Minister of Education and Culture of Indonesia, Prof. Dr. Muhadjir Effendy, MAP also go the chance to visit the booths in the exhibition.

SEAMOLEC Regional Open Learning Centre (SEAMOLEC) was participating by opening a booth as well as assisting several vocational high schools in the field of IoT, Video Tourism Promotion, AR/VR, and Game Development. SEAMOLEC Director presented about the development of technology in the era of industry 4.0 in the Seminar.
SEAMOLEC OPENS ITSELF TO VISITATION FROM OTHER INSTITUTIONS; WHETHER EXISTING PARTNERS OR NEW POTENTIAL PARTNERS.

Participants of the visit are ranging from teachers, lecturers, students, or officials. To maximize the objective of the visit, SEAMOLEC staffs will provide information about the Centre’s programmes which are related to the needs of the visitors.

During the first 3 months of this year, SEAMOLEC has received numbers of institutions as described below.

**Ministry of Education Youth and Sport (MoEYS) of Cambodia**

Over the years SEAMEO Regional Open Learning Centre (SEAMOLEC) and The Ministry of Education Youth and Sport (MoEYS) of the Kingdom of Cambodia have maintained good relationship through various programmes and activities involving educational institutions in Indonesia and Cambodia. Ranging from double degree, joint programmes, credit transfer system, scholarship grant, trainings/workshop, international seminar, expert exchange, and many more.

On Tuesday, February 26, 2019 SEAMOLEC had an honour to receive three delegates from MoEYS Cambodia; Dr. Im Koch (Secretary of State, MoEYS), Mr Chea Cheat (Under Secretary of State, MoEYS), and Dr. Doung Vuth (SEAMEO TED Director), accompanied by SEAMEO Centre for Early Childhood Care Education and Parenting (CECCEP)’s Deputy Director for Programme, Mr. Ith Vuthy. They were all welcomed by SEAMOLEC Board of Directors and staffs in a warm meeting and office tour. In his welcoming remark SEAMOLEC Director, Dr. Alpha Amirrachman gave preview of SEAMOLEC collaborative programmes which involved Cambodia over the past 5 years. He then proposed potential collaborations in the near future.

Dr. Im Koch on behalf of Cambodian delegates mentioned the objective of their visit to SEAMOLEC is to learn about the feasible model of open and distance learning along with the newest supporting technology, which should be applicable to education in his country. He emphasized the concern of Kingdom of Cambodia about the need to improve human resources to be able to compete in the revolution industry 4.0 through education sector. He believed that SEAMOLEC is an appropriate place to open greater access and opportunities to education for all students.

During the courtesy visit, the three delegates had the chance to visit SEAMOLEC Computer Lab to witness the projects exhibition of Internet of Things (IoT) developed...
by students of vocational schools under the guidance of SEAMOLEC, and also to examine the Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) products developed by the Centre. SEAMOLEC elaborated the digital contents for education and online training management, which are among SEAMOLEC’s flagship programmes nowadays.

**STIKES Mitra Ria Husada (SMRH)**

SEAMOLEC received visitors from STIKES Mitra Ria Husada (SMRH) on January 11 and 14, 2019. SMRH is an institute of health science which located in East Jakarta. This is their fifth time of visiting SEAMOLEC in the past 5 years. Usually the visitors from SMRH were their students, but this time the lecturers got the chance to visit the Centre. Total 28 SMRH’s lecturers came to visit SEAMOLEC in those 2 days.

SEAMOLEC presented 2 topics concerning the utilization of ICT in teaching and learning activities, and journal reference for lecturers. The lecturers were excited to learn about various new technologies which will be applicable in their teaching activities, especially about online lecture using MOOC platform. Participants were introduced about the difference between LMS and MOOC platform, and also seen simulator demonstration that has been developed by SEAMOLEC IT team. At the end of the visit, Ms. Fitri, the representative of SMRH’s lecturers invited SEAMOLEC to pay a visit to SMRH in the future time.

**Training Center for Ministry of Religious Affairs of Central Java**

On February 15, 2019 SEAMOLEC was visited by 3 instructors from Training Center for Ministry of Religious Affairs of Central Java. The objective of their visit was to learn about the management of SEAMOLEC online training programme. Ms. Zahrani, SEAMOLEC staff from Training Division, explained about SEAMOLEC’s overall concept of online training, including the platform, various course subject, scheduling, interaction, assessment, and many more. The discussion went very active during the meeting, discussing about SEAMOLEC’s best practices and technical aspects of the online training conduct.

The Training Center for Ministry of Religious Affairs of Central Java is going to launch their online training system within the year of 2019. They targeted more than 30,000 teachers to be enrolled in their online training. They found the sharing session with SEAMOLEC about online training management very helpful.

**Universitas Ibnu Khaoldun**

On Thursday, February 19, 2019 SEAMOLEC received a visitation from Universitas Ibn Khaoldun Bogor. There were 40 Bachelor and Master Degree students from Education Technology Programme accompanied by 4 lecturers, and led by Dr. Zainal Abidin Arif, the Head of Study Master Program of Educational Technology.

Dr. Alpha Amirrachman, SEAMOLEC Director along with the Deputy Director for Programme and Deputy Director for Administration officially welcome the guests. The aim of the visitation of Univesitas Ibn Khaoldun Bogor was to study about the learning experiences from SEAMOLEC’s best practices on the development of digital learning in the era of Revolution Industry 4.0.

During the sharing session, Mr. Timbul Pardede (SEAMOLEC Training Expert) shared the pedagogic aspects of Digital Age of Learning. Meanwhile, Mr. Aji Wicaksono (SEAMOLEC IT Content Staff) shared about ICT tools developed by SEAMOLEC which are applicable to be used by teachers to enrich teaching and learning activities.
In order to achieve its vision and mission, SEAMEO Regional Open Learning Centre (SEAMOLEC) is very keen on establishing a stronger networking system through partnerships and synergizing with other related parties. Only with good network and partnership the Centre treasures to grow bigger in the future.

**SEAMOLEC and Partners**

SEAMOLEC and Partners

Under the relevance of priority number 5: Revitalizing Teachers Education, SEAMEO Secretariat initiates a joint program with Directorate General of Teachers and Education Personnel (DG TEP), Ministry of Education and Culture of Indonesia. Inviting 13 SEAMEO Centres from Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Thailand, and 1 Teacher Training Centre (PPPPTK) of Indonesia, a meeting was conducted at the meeting room of DG TEP on January 17, 2019 led by The Director General and SEAMEO Secretariat Director.

This meeting was a follow up from the previous meeting held on January 7, 2019. During the meeting, the SEAMEO Centres presented the title of online courses that they could offer for Indonesian teachers of all levels (Primary School to High School). Dr. Alpha Amirrachman, SEAMOLEC Director, offered 16 online courses related to Utilization of ICT into Teaching and Learning Process and the 21st Century Education which can be followed by Indonesian teachers in order to improve their quality of teaching.

Other SEAMEO Centres involved in this program were: SEAMEO CECCEP, SEAMEO BIOTROP, SEAMEO QITEP IN LANGUAGE, SEAMEO QITEP IN MATHEMATICS, SEAMEO QITEP IN SCIENCE, SEAMEO RECFON, SEAMEO CHAT, SEAMEO SEN, SEAMEO SPAFA, SEAMEO RETRAC, SEAMEO TROPMED NETWORK, and SEAMEO INNOTECH.

At the end of the meeting, the Director General of TEP thanked all Centres and will look forward to a comprehensive proposal from SEAMEO Secretariat regarding the online course offering. DG TEP will select the ones that match with their priorities to be implemented starting in February 2019.

**Forging Collaboration between SEAMOLEC and PUSTEKKOM in 2019**

Following up directive message from Secretary General of Ministry of Education and Culture (MoEC) for SEAMOLEC to start synergizing and synchronizing activities and programmes with The Centre for ICT of MoEC (PUSTEKKOM), SEAMOLEC visited PUSTEKKOM on January 25, 2019. The coordination meeting was led by Head of PUSTEKKOM, Dr. Gogot Suwarwoto who attended with all PUSTEKKOM’s Heads of Division.

Dr. Alpha Amirrachman, SEAMOLEC Director brought along his Deputy Directors and Managers. He presented SEAMOLEC’s priority programmes in 2019 and several proposed collaborative ICT-based open and distance learning activities in Indonesia, Southeast Asia and beyond. In response to SEAMOLEC’s presentation, Dr. Gogot also presented PUSTEKKOM’s priority programmes such as TV Edukasi, Rumah Belajar, ICT in Remote Areas, and computer-based test (CBT) system for National Examination.

The discussion went very fruitful and productive; it ended up with several important agreements. One of very feasible activities is for SEAMOLEC to promote PUSTEKKOM’s learning contents to Southeast Asian institution partners. Both institutions could select the best and available learning contents made by PUSTEKKOM which are still in Bahasa Indonesia, and convert it into English to be ready to use. PUSTEKKOM also interested in the idea of SEAMOLEC bridging Indonesian schools (that are under PUSTEKKOM) to be matched with Southeast Asian schools in sister school programme.
PUSTEKKOM also offered to provide infrastructure and network facilities for SEAMOLEC programmes and have cooperation in the conduct of seminar, workshop, and best practice sharing session which are related with open and distance learning issues. SEAMOLEC will as well bridge cooperation between PUSTEKKOM and SEAMEO INNOTECH in the Philippines as both institutions have relatively similar functions in each respective country, among others is to conduct ICT expert exchange programme between two institutions.

In addition, SEAMOLEC agreed to pay much more attention and research efforts to the development of open and distance learning models, which could be replicated in member countries and beyond, as the Centre is the only institution dedicated to open and distance learning issues in Southeast Asia.

The collaboration will soon to be started as both PUSTEKKOM and SEAMOLEC have appointed persons in charge to coordinate all joint activities. It is scheduled to have regular monthly meetings, and Head of PUSTEKKOM and SEAMOLEC Director agreed to directly monitor the flow of cooperation and the tangible follow up of all agreements. The meeting ended with a group photo session.

UT and SEAMOLEC Cementing Collaboration for Open and Distance Learning

Located inside the same compound, Universitas Terbuka (UT) or Open University of Indonesia is the closest neighbor and has always been a long-time partner to SEAMEO Regional Open Learning Centre (SEAMOLEC). On Monday, January 28, 2019 Dr. Alpha Amirrachman and his team visited the university and had a very fruitful meeting with Prof. Ojat Darojat, Rector of UT who welcomed SEAMOLEC’s team with his vice rector, and experts

Prof. Ojat said that UT received mandate from the Minister of Research Technology and Higher Education (MoRTHE) to increase the number of enrolment; which currently is 350,000 to be 1,000,000 students within this year. For that particular purpose UT invites SEAMOLEC to collaborate in targeting Indonesian high school graduates who are unable to pursue their study to higher education, and also for the graduates of open high school programme to pursue their study in UT.

Dr. Alpha briefed the Rector and his team about SEAMOLEC’s assistance to Faculty of Economy of UT in 2018 in conducting the Entrepreneurship programme for vocational schools in Indonesia with the grant given by Directorate of Technical and Vocational Education (DTVE) of the Ministry of Education (MoE) of Indonesia. This could be the initiative to open future collaboration in designing new study program offered to vocational high school teachers who teach entrepreneurship subject, and to students who already have start-ups/or businesses. They will be offered free credits to enter the study program provided by UT.

Prof. Ojat also suggested the idea of collaborative research between UT and SEAMOLEC in developing open and distance learning (ODL) model in Indonesian context, as well as the plan of developing digital literacy materials for joint-training programmes provided for lecturers of conventional universities and other ministries in Indonesia. Other possible collaboration is to have sharing massive open online course (MOOC) contents with other open universities in Southeast Asia that will support the ASEAN studies programme.

The meeting had been fruitful and opened many opportunities for both sides to be actively involved. It also resulted in the plan of establishing independent accreditation body to develop the instrument for quality assurance in ODL together among 3 institutions; UT, ICT Center for Education (PUSTEKKOM), and SEAMOLEC.
SEAMOLEC and UNTIRTA Renewed MOU for Stronger Partnership

On the same day after visiting Universitas Terbuka, SEAMOLEC visited its existing partners, Universitas Sultan Ageng Tirtayasa (UNTIRTA), Serang, Banten to explore new possible cooperation. It is also one of SEAMOLEC efforts in support to SEAMEO Priority Area No. 6: Harmonising Higher Education and Research.

SEAMOLEC Director Dr. Alpha Amirrachman with his team visited the university and had warm and productive discussion with Rector of UNTIRTA, Prof. Dr. H. Sholeh Hidayat, M.,Pd and his vice rectors, deans, and other officials on Monday, January 28, 2019. In his remarks Prof. Sholeh mentioned that UNTIRTA is the only public university in Banten province with more than 50 study programmes.

Dr. Alpha presented SEAMOLEC's newest programmes, which were perceived to be suitable for UNTIRTA's lecturers to improve their ICT literacy and skills. He offered various face-to-face and online training regarding ICT integration into teaching and learning process to all UNTIRTA's lecturers. In fact, some of UNTIRTA's lecturers who had joined SEAMOLEC's training in few years ago have already applied Digital Class programmes in their classroom activities, and it contributes greatly to how they manage their classes.

In fact, over the years, UNTIRTA and SEAMOLEC have developed a well-maintained partnership. Several visitations to SEAMOLEC have been held by UNTIRTA students and lecturers to study about the newest technology to be applied in teaching and learning activities.

One of the activities of cooperation between SEAMOLEC and UNTIRTA is bridging partnership between UNTIRTA and Hanbat National University (HNU), one of reputable universities in South Korea. Two representatives of HNU also attended the meeting; Prof Oh Yong Jun, the Vice President and Director of International Affairs, and Mr. Hwang Sun Poy, the Team Leader of International Affairs. Prof. Sholeh appreciated the initiative of having partnership with HNU and was interested in establishing Korean Language and Cultural Centre in UNTIRTA as there is a sizeable number of Korean companies in Banten Province. This should pave the way for UNTIRTA students to prepare themselves to work there.

At the end of the meeting, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was renewed between both institutions, agreeing to conduct various programmes in the next three years. The MOU stated that among activities to be conducted are trainings, ICT utilization, exchanging scientific materials, sharing publication and information and other relevant projects. The MOU was signed by Prof. Dr. H. Sholeh Hidayat, M.,Pd and Dr. Alpha Amirrachman witnessed by team members of both parties.

Applying Latest Technology To Improve The Quality Of Basic And Secondary Education

In its effort to assist Directorate General of Basic and Secondary Education (DG BSE) of Ministry of Education and Culture of Indonesia in collaborative programmes, SEAMOLEC Director and team paid a visit to the DG Office on March 11, 2019 and met Dr. Hamid Muhammad, the Director General with all his officials.

SEAMOLEC Director, Dr. Alpha Amirrachman and his managers presented several programmes which are potential to collaborate with the DG. Some of the contents were in form of programme report which have already been accomplished in previous years, and some others were to be proposed for new joint activities. Among the proposed programmes were; utilization of SEAMOLEC Innovative Educational Resources for Remote Areas (SIERRA) device, inserting Artificial Intelligence as additional subject for basic and secondary level students, and the Southeast Asia Creative Camp (SEA CC).

In response to the programme explanation by SEAMOLEC, Dr. Hamid was interested in applying Artificial Intelligence as a stand-alone module for students. Artificial Intelligence is considered as the latest technology that need to be taught to students in order to prepare themselves in education 4.0 era. Dr. Hamid specially requested to have another meeting between SEAMOLEC and DG BSE staffs to discuss more
about the technical matters to prepare this idea. The offering to introduce Artificial Intelligence to students will be opened to all schools with some requirements, and DG BSE will select the schools with matching criteria to start this programme.

Dr. Hamid was also interested to know more about SIERRA device to be applied in basic and secondary schools in Indonesia with limited internet facility. The idea was to provide those schools with various additional materials in form of audio, video, or online test trial to enrich and improve the quality of the learning process without internet access. The material will also use various contents provided by Rumah Belajar of PUSTEKKOM.

Related to SEA CC, Dr. Hamid suggested that the results from all participating team should be put into one platform as best practices of the competition which later could be utilized by other students and teachers. Dr. Alpha welcome all the suggestions and SEAMOLEC is ready to assist DG BSE in future activities.

**SEAMOLEC Artificial Intelligence (AI): Concept and Implementation of AI in Digitizing Museums**

On Tuesday, March 12, 2019 SEAMEO Regional Open Learning Centre (SEAMOLEC) had a meeting with Directorate General of Culture of Ministry of Education and Culture. The meeting was led by the Director General, Dr. Hilmar Farid, and SEAMOLEC Director, Dr. Alpha Amirrachman. It was attended by all officials and technical team of DG Culture, including the secretary of DG, Director of Cultural and Museum Conservation, Director of Belief and Tradition, and SEAMOLEC staffs. They discussed about the possibility of cooperation between the two institutions in effort to develop Indonesian cultural potential in this digital era, especially in utilizing Artificial Intelligence in digitizing museums.

The meeting also discussed about enriching websites under the DG, developing digitized museum to support the scattered museums’ collection record, and jointly collaborating in the events held by DG of Culture in Southeast Asia region.

In his remark, Dr. Hilmar expressed his warm welcome to SEAMOLEC Director and team, as well as the opportunity for various collaboration. He mentioned that the activities being discussed were in line with the needs of DG of Culture, especially to respond to the instruction and regulation of the Ministry in facing the digital era.

SEAMOLEC Director introduced his team and informed that SEAMOLEC has prepared SEAMOLEC Artificial Intelligence (SEARGEN) programme for Museum Digitization. SEAMOLEC Profile presentation was delivered by SEAMOLEC Deputy Director for Programme and programme presentation by IT Content and Knowledge Management manager. SEAMOLEC presented the potential of Indonesian museums which will be better organized by implementing AI to the content of digitized museum using algorithm method. The information will be delivered more efficiently to the visitors, and they all could get recommendation museum’s contents based on their privileges and behavior.

At the end of the meeting Dr Hilmar and Dr. Alpha agreed to these following items of cooperation:

1. Jointly develop the digitized museum, especially for cultural collections that are scattered all over Indonesia, including 111 public museums.
2. Jointly conduct a workshop for DG of Culture including representatives from the museums to discuss about SEAMOLEC Artificial Intelligence (SEARGEN) in order to enrich the content of websites of DG Culture, as well as to develop the mobile version of the web.
3. SEAMOLEC will support events held by DG of Culture in Southeast Asia level; i.e symposium through video conference, etc.

The meeting was ended by photo group session.
Today, all SEAMOLEC staffs were happily celebrating the Centre's 22nd Anniversary. The occasion was held back-to-back with the Inter-Centre Collaboration Meeting (ICCM). Representatives from other Indonesian SEAMEO Centres and former Director of SEAMOLEC, Prof. Dr. Paulina Pannen also attended the celebration. The Centre also received a congratulatory message from the former Minister of Education and Culture of Indonesia (2001-2004), Mr. Abdul Malik Fajar. In his message he delivered the expectation for SEAMOLEC to play an important role in open and distance learning within the region, especially for students in remote areas.

In his remarks, Dr. Alpha Amirrachman informed all audiences a highlighted story of SEAMOLEC Journey, a history and timeline of the Centre's services to Southeast Asia region from the year 1997 up to now. He emphasized that in the future SEAMOLEC will still need support and assistance from all partners in undertaking relevant programmes.

During the event, there were two staffs of SEAMOLEC awarded as Best Staffs of the Year, they are; Ms. Arie Susanty (Training Division) and Mr. Tomi Dafisah (Administration Division).

After that all SEAMOLEC staffs were having motivational class and actively involved in games and sharing session. Today was indeed one of good memories to be cherished again in the future. Bravo SEAMOLEC!
SEAMOLEC Shared its Flagship Programme at the SEAMEO-University of Tsukuba Symposium VII

University of Tsukuba in cooperation with Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) conducted a SEAMEO-University of Tsukuba Symposium at the University of Tsukuba, Tokyo Campus, Japan on February 10, 2019. The Symposium was related to SEAMEO Priority Area No 7, “Adapting 21st century Skills,” and No 5, “Revitalizing Teacher Education.” It focused on the school-teacher education reforms for the age of digitalization in 4.0 Industrial society under the following scopes; Reforms on Teacher Education System in relation to Digital Economy, Harnessing Human Resource Development thru Education Science and Culture, Academic Mobility and Overseer Programmes on Internship, and the Challenges on 4th Industrial Revolution and Employability of Graduates. The event’s main objective was to share the reform movements of SEAMEO Member Countries and Japan as well as to seek for further collaboration beyond region.

All SEAMEO Centres were invited to participate in this event, especially those engaged in teacher education and development, including SEAMEO Regional Open Learning Centre (SEAMOLEC). Dr. Alpha Amirrachman, SEAMOLEC Director became one of the speakers of this Symposium. He delivered a paper in Panel Session 1, entitled “Innovating Education in Response to Opportunities and Challenges of Digital Industry: The Case of Open and Distance Learning in West Java Province, Indonesia.”

In his presentation he started with the idea of equal access to proper education for all children to prepare them in the era of globalization where most of the things in life are handled by utilizing technology, and it also changes the workforce need which requires high skilled workers. In its capacity, SEAMOLEC in cooperation with West Java Provincial Education Office develops models of Open High School and Distance Learning Vocational School. The main objective of this programme is to improve access, quality, and relevance of secondary education through distance learning system in Indonesia, especially in West Java province, where enrollment rate of students was very low.

Dr. Alpha explained that since 2017, this programme has been allowing learners to study by using an independent learning system that cooperate with business and industry by combining distance learning using internet network and face-to-face learning, and practice with facilitator from business/industry practitioners. Likewise, for remote areas where there is no internet connection, Dr. Alpha shared the institution’s experience with SIERRA (SEAMOLEC Educational Resources for Remote Areas) device which is developed by the Centre. SIERRA is a product that allows students to learn by accessing learning materials in form of video, audio, and other contents compiled in an offline site, by using their smart phones or personal computer (PC) without using internet connection and with less electricity as it is powered by a power bank, which can be charged with a solar cell. He also mentioned that at a wider scope this programme is expected to reduce unskilled labor. As a result, the enrolment rate increased.

The low enrollment rate of students in West Java Province, for example, was not only caused by economic or geographical considerations, but was also due to psychological aspects and social perspectives of local communities. Therefore, a multi-dimensional approach is needed to address this problem. At the end of his presentation, Dr Alpha suggested that other areas of Indonesia, especially in the remote areas as well as in other SEAMEO member countries replicate this programme.
ON THE BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY, SEAMOLEC CONDUCTED TRAINING OF TRAINER FOR ITS STAFF.

The goal of this training of trainer process was to give the trainers background of knowledge, skills, and practical experience regarding the latest training topics. Moreover, this training aimed for SEAMOLEC’s trainers to refresh their knowledge and deepen their understanding about the previous training topics.

The training of trainer was organized for five days, starting from 10.00 am to 04.00 pm covering these 6 topics:
1. How to be a good trainer?
2. Pedagogy in Teaching and Learning
3. How to be a good moderator in online training?
4. Infographic Design
5. Internet of Things (IOT)
6. Digital comic as Learning Media

Some of the topics were a one-day training, some others needed more days to be delivered due to the complexity of the materials, for example: the topic of "Internet of Things (IOT)". Originally, the opening for IOT topic was only for 20 trainers due to the limited number of the equipment. Unexpectedly, there were more trainers keen to join this program, so that the IOT topic was conducted in two batches.

Comic as Learning Media is the latest training topic in SEAMOLEC. This training was designed for teachers or educators who wants to share teaching materials through comic to ignite enthusiasm in their students. This method is expected to lead interaction and discussion of the work among students, as well as between students and teacher. At the end of this training, participants were required to create their own comic which contains some instructions to be done by the readers. The participant passionately accomplished their project.

Having this training of trainer finished, SEAMOLEC is ready to organize various training programs with new topics, whether online or face-to-face training. However, the training of trainer program is not finish yet, there are more topics waiting to be delivered soon.
SEAMEO Regional Open Learning Centre (SEAMOLEC) is currently involved in a joint programme entitled South-East Asian Sales Competition (SEASAC). It is a 3-year project funded by European Union (EU) under the Erasmus+ Capacity Building in the Field of Higher Education programme. Together with universities from Indonesia, Thailand, and European countries, SEAMOLEC will be actively involved in this programme consortium.

The partners involved in this consortium are; (1) Turku University of Applied Sciences, Finland, (2) University of Applied Sciences Wiener Neustadt, Austria, (3) Edinburgh Napier University, Scotland, (4) Haaga Helia University of Applied Sciences, Finland, (5) Mahasarakham University, Thailand, (6) Rangsit University, Thailand, (7) Binus University, Indonesia, (8) Universitas Putra Indonesia “YPTK” Padang, Indonesia, (9) Sebelas Maret University, Indonesia, (10) Parahyangan Catholic University, Indonesia, and (11) SEAMOLEC.

The main objective of the project is to strengthen South-East Asian Universities’ capacity to provide highly skilled Business to Business (B2B) Sales professionals to the emerging international markets. Existing knowledge and best practices from Europe will be matched with Asian sales cultures leading to a South-East Asian concept where companies actively contribute to the university level sales education in its all phases: planning, implementation and assessment of students’ performance.

On Thursday, March 21, 2019 SEASAC Project was officially launched at the conference room of Ministry of Research Technology and Higher Education (MoRTHE) Office Building D, 3rd Floor. HE Mr Jari Sinkari, Ambassador of Finland also attended the event. The event started with opening remarks from both SEAMOLEC Director and BINUS Global Director. Followed by keynote speakers; Assistant Prof Dr Kittiphong Praphan from Mahasarakham University of Thailand, and Mr Radju Munusamy, the Chairman of Jebsen and Jessen Indonesia group representing the industry. The project was officially launched by Prof Ismunandar, the Director General of Learning and Students Affairs of MoRTHE, who really welcome the project collaboration and wish it to result in significant impacts to the quality of higher education institutions. The event was closed by a press conference session.

SEAMEO Regional Open Learning Centre (SEAMOLEC) as one of the partners in this project is trusted to handle the dissemination of the project and its results. With the experience and strong partnership with European and Southeast Asian colleagues, SEAMOLEC is honored and happy for the recognition of the Centre for this significant role in this project. In the future SEAMOLEC will explore the possibility to deliver this concept and practice into basic and secondary level education.
Participating in UNESCO’s Mobile Learning Week 2019: Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Development

SEAMOLEC was invited and participated in the UNESCO’s Mobile Learning Weeks 2019 under the theme of: ‘Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Development’.

Mobile Learning Week is held annually at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, the event convenes education and technology experts from around the world. 1500 participants from 130 countries participated in the event that provided the educational community, governments and other stakeholders a unique opportunity to discuss the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for sustainable development.

This year’s event was conducted on March 4 to 8, 2019 with the main objective to look at the opportunities and threats linked to the use of AI in education. The topics discussed were under the ideas on how to ensure inclusive and equitable use of AI in education? How to leverage AI to enhance education and learning? How to promote skills development for jobs and life in the AI era? And how to safeguarding transparent and auditable use of education data?

The five-days event started with the ‘Global Conference-Principles for AI: Towards a Humanistic Approach’, followed by a one-day Policy Forum and Workshops, a two-days International Symposium and a half-day of Strategy Labs. During the entire week, exhibitions and demonstrations of innovative AI applications for education and more than 20 workshops were organized by international partners and all programme sectors of UNESCO.

Participants can find a lot of up-to-date information about the development of AI in this symposium, as AI has risen to the forefront of public discourse in recent years. The breakthrough in AI is on an accelerated development path, and has been further propelled by innovations in other frontier technologies, including cloud computing, big data, internet of things, and virtual reality. As a convergence of a widening spectrum of frontier technologies, AI has garnered the potential to bring new possibilities for global development and societal change.

The transformation power of AI crosses all economic and social sectors, including the education sector. In particular, AI has the potential to accelerate the process of achieving Sustainable Development Goal 4. It promises to reduce barriers to access education, automate management processes, analyse learning patterns and optimise learning processes with a view to improving learning outcomes. However, the penetration of AI in education comes with concerns about ethics, security and human rights. Without policy intervention, the commercial deployment of AI will also exacerbate digital divides and deepen existing income and learning inequalities, as marginalised and disadvantaged groups are more likely to be excluded from AI-powered education.

To maximize AI’s benefits and mitigate its potential risks, system-wide planning and collective actions to reinvent the core foundation of education and learning are required. The rapid deployment of AI in education tests the readiness of stakeholders to harness AI, posing new challenges pertinent to all areas of education and learning, such as policy planning, curriculum and resources development, teacher education, and skills development.

After participating in this symposium, SEAMOLEC began to design real implementation in the form of a model to implement AI in education, especially in the field of open and distance learning. As a first step, SEAMOLEC will offer this model to the main units of Ministry of Education and Culture of Indonesia, e.g; Directorate General of Basic and Secondary Education, and Directorate General of Culture.
In its effort to increase network of cooperation, SEAMEO Regional Open Learning Centre (SEAMOLEC) extended partnership program with two religious organization: ‘Aisyiyah and Nahdlatul Ulama. The activities are planned to support the programmes of institutions under these 2 organizations.

SEAMOLEC made a commitment with Central Board of ‘Aisyiyah which is a Muhammadiyah Womens’ Wing to advancing Muslim women, and Central Board of Nasyiatul ‘Aisyiyah which has more focus to younger women. The programme planned for ‘Aisyiyah and Nasyiatul ‘Aisyiyah is to improve competence in technology 4.0 for lecturers, educators, and preachers. SEAMOLEC will use video conference to conduct online trainings as well as to do the accompaniment. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two institutions was signed on February 21, 2019.

On March 20, 2019, a set of joint-programmes was signed under the MoU between SEAMOLEC and another religious organization, The Central Board of Nahdlatul Ulama, particularly with its Preaching Division. One of the programmes highlights the utilization of social media to do religious lectures, called Digital Da’i or Millennial Da’i which is targeted to youngsters who are familiar with digital media. Besides that program, the cooperation will also focus on utilization of video conference for religious lectures. This media will enable all Muslim people to learn the lectures from anytime and anywhere, nationally and internationally.
SEAMOLEC 2019 Annual Meeting

EVERY YEAR SEAMOLEC HOSTS ANNUAL MEETING FOR ITS STAFFS AND MANAGEMENT

in order to review the results which have been accomplished by the Centre in the previous year and to plan for next year programmes. Prior to this year’s Annual Meeting, the Centre hosted a half-day workshop for all staffs, and invited the Senior Advisor of Minister of Education and Culture, Dr Ananto Kusuma Seta who shared about SEAMOLEC’s future direction and discuss about the core tasks of the Centre.

The 2019 Annual Meeting was conducted at the MNC Lido Lake Resort, Sukabumi on March 26-27, 2019. The meeting went very well under the guidance of SEAMOLEC Board of Directors. All staffs were divided into 4 small groups to discuss and plan specific timeline, budget, and target programmes for training, models, partnership, and strategic plan.

On the second day, all staff participated in team building activities. For the whole day they experienced an adventurous and exciting rafting in Cisadane river before heading back to office.